

A  
**TESTIMONY**

CONCERNING

Our dear & well-beloved Friend  
and Brother in the Truth,

**William Coale**

Who departed this Life the 30<sup>th</sup> of the  
8<sup>th</sup> Moneth, in the Year 1678.

*Blessed are the dead which dye in the Lord, from  
henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, that they may  
rest from their Labours, and their Works do  
follow them, Rev. 14. 13.*

**LONDON:**

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*Anno 1682.*

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A Testimony concerning our dear  
 Friend W. Coale, deceased.



**W**E desire that all our young and old may be encouraged to travel on in the way of Truth and Righteousness, to the end of their dayes, being well assured, that the end thereof is Peace; for the Memorial of the Righteous and Upright-hearted cannot nor will not be forgotten in this our Age and blessed Generation, wherein so many faithful and true Witnesses are yet remaining, some of which do very well remember both the Life and Death of our Friend aforesaid, being truly recorded in the hearts of those that truly love him, he being of an honest Life, and of good Report, as some can testifie of him, both before and after he was convinced of the Lords blessed Truth; and soon after his Convincement, which was about the year 1657. he came forth with living Testimony for the Lord and his blessed Truth, and travelled abroad amongst friends and People, both in *Maryland* and *Virginia*, and several were convinced by him; and to our knowledge was a man well loved amongst many, and travelled in Unity with the faithful, who knew him to be a Minister of Christ, and for the

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A Testimony concerning our dear  
 Friend W. Cagle, deceased.



**W**E desire that all Friends, both young and old may be encouraged to travel on in the way of Truth and Righteousness, to the end of their dayes, being well assured, that the end thereof is Peace; for the Memorial of the Righteous and Upright-hearted cannot nor will not be forgotten in this our Age and blessed Generation, wherein so many faithful and true Witnesses are yet remaining, some of which do very well remember both the Life and Death of our Friend aforesaid, being truly recorded in the hearts of those that truly love him, he being of an honest Life, and of good Report, as some can testifie of him, both before and after he was convinced of the Lords blessed Truth; and soon after his Convincement, which was about the year 1657. he came forth with living Testimony for the Lord and his blessed Truth, and travelled abroad amongst Friends and People, both in *Maryland* and *Virginia*, and several were convinced by him; and to our knowledge was a man well loved amongst many, and travelled in Unity with the faithful, who knew him to be a Minister of Christ, and for the

Testimony of Truth suffered long Imprisonment with dear *George Wilson*, who faithfully finished his Testimony in *James Town Prison* in *Virginia*, in Chains, and many precious writings were joyntly in good Unity given forth, in the time where the one dyed, and the other's Body much decayed, which was never recovered again. So, truly desiring a Recordance of thus much in Testimony concerning his faithful Living, and his Dying words here added thus following, some few Friends being about him, enquiring of him, *How it was with him?* he said a little before his departure, **[I bless the Lord, I have finished my course and I have now nothing to do, but to wait on the Lord to Dye;]** or words to that Effect: So in a short time after he departed very peaceably and quietly; and we faithfully believe, he is at Rest and Peace with the Lord.

He was a sound and firm man for God, and Friends find a loss of him in these parts, yet well contented, knowing that our Loss was his eternal and everlasting Gain.

*William Richardson,* } *Richard Halls,*  
*John Gary,* } *Abraham Birkhead.*  
*George Skipwith,*

Signed by the consent of the General half year  
 Meeting at West-River in Maryland, the  
 29th of the 3d Moneth, 1680.

**M**Y Testimony concerning *Will. Coale*, deceased (being with him at the very time of his departure) is, That though he was very weak in Body, even near his departure, when I came to him, yet very sensible, fresh and chearful in Spirit, being freely given up unto the will of God, as a living man prepared to dye, saying, *The living Presence of the Lord is with me*; and spoke many pleasant wholsom Words, to the great satisfaction and comfort of those about him, signifying what great satisfaction he had from the Lord concerning his Peace, saying, *Now I have nothing to do, but to dye.*

This Testimony is true, and I have known him long, and I never knew him in a more living chearful sence to God, than at that hour of his departure; yet alwayes a man of honest and good Report.

*Hering-Creeke, Maryland,*  
7th of the 12th Mon.  
1679.

*Anne Chew.*

**T**He Testimony of *Elizabeth Richardson* concerning *William Coal* deceased, who was with him at his departure, and saw him, & heard his Sayings, which were very sweet and heavenly, being in a very living heavenly frame of Spirit, uttering many words in the heavenly sence of Gods goodness and mercy to his Soul, in which sence he closed



up with these words, saying, *I bless the Lord, I have finished, and I have nothing to do but to wait upon the Lord to dye.*

*West-River in Maryland* }  
the 7th of the 12th  
Moneth, 1679.

*E. Richardson.*

**B**Eing at *William Coale's* at the hour of his Death, and some hours before, this is my Testimony concerning him, That he appeared a man prepared to dye, lively and chearful, as to the Lord, but low in Body, speaking several times his Condition, which was to the refreshing : To those about him these words he uttered, *I bless the Lord, I have nothing to do but to dye;* and soon after departed.

*Hering-Creeke in Maryland,* }  
the 8th of the 1st Moneth,  
1680.

*Anne Birkhead.*

**A** Testimony concerning *William Coale's* godly Life and Conversation ; for I knew him a great while ago, when he was but a Lad, and he had a good Report, and one that truly sought after God, and I have often had discourse with him concerning Gods dealings to his People, and I alwayes found his desires and aim was to the Glory of God, and the good of his People ; and I do believe he lived and dyed in his favour.

*From a lover of the Truth, Eliz. Taylor.*



**A** Testimony concerning *William Coale*; being with him a day or two before he departed, he being very fresh and sensible, and lively in Spirit, he signifying that it was well with him, as to the Lord; and I am very well satisfied, that although he was very weak in Body, as to the outward, that the living presence of the Lord was with him; and where the presence of the Lord is, there is Life; and I do believe laid down his head in the same, in rest and peace with the Lord.

**Solomon Sparrow.**

**T**His is my Testimony concerning my well-beloved Friend *William Coale*, I knowing him from my Childhood, and being with him a great part of his Sickness, and at his departure, when he departed this life like a Lamb; and the night before he departed, he then being to our appearance (that were then present) ready to depart, but suddainly revived and spoke several weighty and precious words to us that were about him; and likewise remembered his love to all Friends that retained the Truth of God; and after a few words more, said but little till next day some Friends came about him, & asked him, how he did? and his answer was, *Well, and had nothing to do but to wait upon the Lord, and so dye*: And after that, spoke but little whilst he remained in

this World; and 'tis my Belief, that he laid down his head in peace with the Lord.

*Edward Talbot.*

**T**His is my Testimony for my dear Husband deceased, that he was sensible of his Departure, and he was well prepared for it; and the night before he departed, being very weak, and not knowing how short his time might be, he cleared his Mind to us that were with him, and signified his satisfaction and peace with God, and remembered his love to all Friends, as they retained their Integrity to God. The next day several Friends came to see him, and asked him how he did? his Answer was, he was *well, and had nothing to do but to wait upon God, and so dye*, which was finished that night in peace; and my greatest comfort was, that though he was gone from me, it was to a better being, to wit, than in this World.

*Elizabeth Coale.*

**T**His my Testimony concerning my dear and well-beloved Father-in-law, *William Coale*, concerning many precious words which he spoke to us: Not many hours before he departed I came to the Bed side, and asked him how he did? and he answered me in these very words, and said, *I am well, and have nothing to do but to wait on the Lord, and so to depart*, which indeed were good com-

comfortable words; and I do believe that he had a faithful Testimony for God to the end of his dayes, who as he lived a living man to God, and had a living Testimony for God, even so he departed and laid down his head in peace with God.

Samuel Gallaway.

THIS is my Testimony concerning my dear and well-beloved Father *William Coale*, and concerning many of his dying words, which he spoke to me and many others, which were very good and living words; and although he was my Father, and a loving Father to me, yet these words which he spake to me, which were his dying words, they were comfortable to me; for not long before he departed, I came to his Bed side, and asked him how he did? and he gave me his hand, and said, *I am well, and have nothing to do but to wait on the Lord, and am fitted to dye*, which was my great comfort, and will be so long as I live; for I believe, and I am well satisfied, that he had a living and faithful Testimony for God to the end of his dayes: And it is my belief, that as he lived a living man to God, and had a living Testimony for God, and a real honest man to men, which I am sensible he was, and even so he laid down his Head in  
Peace

Peace with God, with which I am satisfied; and I am sure there are several good Friends which have known him these many Years, could bear a large Testimony concerning his Upright living to God and Man.

*William Coale.*

**T**HIS Testimony lives upon my Spirit, for to bear for my well-beloved Friend *William Coale*, who was near and dear unto me in the Lord's pure blessed Truth: And truly Friends, I shall speak nothing by hearsay as from others, as concerning him, as to his Life and Conversation, but what the Lord God Almighty hath sensibly made me a Witness of in my measure, and that by the good Spirit of the Lord in my own Bosom: From the first time that ever I had a true sense of him, as concerning the Truth, and that Love and Life which the Lord God had raised in him at that day, for to bear a Testimony of his Truth in the authority of the Lord's Power for his Name, it was at a Meeting at *Richard Beards*, which was very precious unto my Soul at that day; for I am a Witness for the Lord, and for my Friend *William Coale*, that it was the Lords constraining Power that opened his Mouth that day, unto the great Refreshing of the hungry and thirsty Soul, and unto the Seed of God in me. And further, this  
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Testimony lives in my Heart, That some Years ago he was moved by the holy and pure Spirit of the Lord, to go to *Virginia* to visit the Seed of God, and was very serviceable at that time, as many can witness at this day, unto the great Comfort and Refreshing of their Immortal Souls; for the Lord was pleased of his infinite Mercy to send him down in a very acceptable time to the Convincing of some, and the establishing of many in his blessed Truth, it being then in a very needful time; and this Truth I being an Eye and Ear witness to, it being my lot to be one among the rest of my dear Brethren, which did accompany him in this Journey, whose Life and Conversation preached Righteousness unto the End of his dayes: And notwithstanding all opposition in his heavenly Travel unto his desired Haven, the Land of Rest, this Testimony lives upon my Soul for my dearly beloved Friend and Brother, *William Coale*, I being at his Burial, with many more Friends and People, and being at the Grave waiting upon God in the silence of all Flesh, as concerning my Brother, the Lord God was pleased to visit me in his Love, and gave me of his good Presence unto the great refreshing of his begotten in me; and it sprung livingly up in me unto my very great satisfaction and comfort, that the

Lord

Lord God had delivered him through all his Troubles, for his Name and Mercies sake; and I was well satisfied as concerning him, and came away very well refreshed, as in the Lord.

And this is a true Testimony concerning our dearly beloved Brother *William Coale*, by one who earnestly breathes unto the Lord God, that I with the rest of my Brethren, may forever press forward in that strait and narrow Way, which leads unto Life Eternal, that at the end of our dayes we may have that Heavenly sentence pass on us, *Well done thou good and faithful Servant, enter thou into the Joy of the Lord.* And this was upon me for to give forth,

*The 4th of the 1st }  
Moneth, 1680. }*

Thomas Hooker.

Concerning *William Coale*, I have this Testimony sealed in my Heart, that he dearly esteemed of the faithful Flock of Christ, and likewise that he had a gift of Ministry from Christ, by which many times the Church was refreshed; and his Ministry did much invite Friends to the inward teaching of the Spirit, labouring to draw all minds to relie wholly on the Lord; and then if any had a Word from the Lord, that would be accepted.

And for the love I bear to Righteousness,  
and

and those that have yet a time in this Life to spend, I have a further Testimony, That from his first Convincement he retained a sincere love and good behaviour, and was alwayes of good esteem among the faithful; and in his time suffered for the Truth, both in Body and Estate, and his latter end was blessed and acceptable to such as were conversant with him, being chearful in the Lord; he told me about two dayes before he departed this Life, *That he had nothing to do but to dye*, to my great satisfaction and comfort, which was the last time I did see him in the Body.

*The 3d Moneth, 1680.*

*George Skipwith.*

DEAR Friends, its with me to give Testimony of my dear Friend *W. Coale*; for I have had great experience of his labours and travels for many years; he was a man that past through many exercises and trials, yet through his faithfulness the Lord made him an able Minister amongst People, even for their great help, as many now alive can demonstrate; the Lord gave him good discerning, even to divide the Word aright; for after I had been much conversant with him, it so came to pass some years after, we were fellow-Prisoners together in a dirty nasty Prison in *Virginia*, for a considerable time, which by him was gladly received, and  
chear-



cheerfully embracing what came on his outward man for the blessed Gospel's sake, often fervently, and with a good clear Understanding praying for the encrease of Truth and Righteousness in *Virginia*, and that, saith he, *our Persecutors might be forgiven*. Much might be spoke as concerning him; but dear *Friends*, I am willing you with me may be satisfied, as to his Reward for all his hard labour and travail; for this I do know, that about or in the year 1670. we travelling together, he had a good service for our God in *Virginia*, he coming there in a time of great need and want; so in this needful time I know many with me that yet remain can say, *he was to them an able Minister of the Gospel*: So that though he be removed from us, as to the outward, even yet to me he is alive, and am satisfied he lives with our God, and that for evermore.

The 2d of the 4th Moneth, 1680.

*Henry Wilcokes.*

*Friends;*

**T**His is my Testimony concerning our dear Friend *William Coale*, deceased, not that I would appear in the least to speak forth the praise of man, more then what God hath given him, but to the Praise and Exaltation of the holy Spirit and Power of God, which was with him, and wrought in him, by and through which he was made an able Instrument in the hand of our God, for good

to many. This I well know, that the Lord moved him by his good Spirit to visit Friends in *Virginia*, about ten Years since, in a very needful time, where the Enemies of the Truth were many; unto which heavenly motion he gave readily up; and notwithstanding the Exercise and Opposition he met withal, yet through the Power of the most High God, was made able to break through all; and through the effectual working of the same was made an Instrument of good to many in that needful time, who remains to this day as Seals of the same. And this, Friends, I declare from a sensible knowledge I had of him, and of that Service, it being my lot to be one that assisted him in his Passage, and was with him in all his Travels; and for his Life and Conversation, I am satisfied with many more, that it was as becomes a Minister of the Gospel. And Friends, this further is my Testimony, That when I last saw him, which was in the time of his Sicknes, he was to me a living man in the life of Truth; and although his Body was much weakened through his Sicknes, yet in his Spirit he was wholly concerned for the Truth, and in the prosperity of the same I know his Joy stood; and although removed from us, yet his Spirit rests in Peace with God, unto the which holy pure Rest God of his Mercy grant we may all prepare for.

THOMAS TAYLOR.

*Tuckabow* in *Maryland*, about the 4th Month, 1680.

**A**S concerning dear *William Coale*, of late Years in my Travels in those parts, I had a near and inward acquaintance with him; he was a man of an innocent and tender Spirit, very bearing, yet of a true Judgment, and stood in the power and love of God against Unrighteousness and false Liberty, and for Righteousness and true Liberty in Christ Jesus, and for Holiness, Peace and Unity in the Church of Christ; he truly loved the Faithful, and greatly delighted in that precious Fellowship which the Lord has brought many into: In his Ministry he appeared not with the enticing words of mans fallen Wisdom, nor did not answer that which is above the Lords witness, but truly & tenderly preached the Cross of Christ, and was often living and weighty in his Testimony, to the comfort of the faithful and honest hearted; he is much missed in the Country where he lived. And concerning his Conversation, and Service, and Sufferings, and Departure, here are the Testimonies of several faithful Friends that had a large and true knowledge of him: *So he has finished his course, and kept the Faith, and endured unto the end, and is at rest in the Lord forever and ever.*

London, the 24th of the }  
4th Moneth, 1682.

*Henry Curren.*

THE END.